MAGAZINE NOTES.

NUMBERS

Mr. Albert Herter, and we suppose that a special tribute should be paid to the exquisite printing of Mr. Maxfield Parrish's tinted illustrations and decorations for the Rheingold episode from Wagner's "Ring of the Nibelung." But neither of these features nor the very upto-date war pictures can, as art, rival the reproductions given in Mr. Spielmann's paper on John Ruskin as an Artist." They remind us of a fact that discerning critics have often noted before, that a great artist was lost in the man who considered, as Mr. Spielmann says, that was to proclaim the "his mission in life beauties in the works of others-not his own." There are defects in these drawings, of course, and some of them are conspicuous enough. That uncompromising honesty which led Ruskin to worship at pre-Raphaelite shrines is visible in his emulation of the care in matters of detail which he there observed. He analyzed too closely, as the early Italians often did, and thus, in some of the rock studies, for example, here reproduced, he obscures his subject. One cannot see the wood because of the trees. But in his treatment of architecture, as exemplified 'Vesuvius, 1841." he disclosed an eloquence and distinction of line which only an artist of intense feeling and real gifts could claim. It is worth while for those who have been listening to the sneers of artists directed against the great English critic to see that in these drawings Ruskin demonstrates his natural right to discourse on the subject which so many professional painters and sculptors have protested he

tevenson conducted in a garret at Davos with Hitle Lloyd Osbourne shows the author in a miable and whimsleal mood. In all gravearnesiness, and with a great deal of intricate mancevring the fight-went on, and the reports and comments of the "Yallobully to her as the greatest of earth's boons Record" and "Herald" were issued with business-like regularity Mr. Osbourne's quotations The first American Secretary of the Navy was from them, as given in "Scribner," are some. Renjamin Stoddert, of Georgetown, and he had times amusing, but oftener dreary in the ex- a clever wife of "the bluest blood" of Maryland object of breathless interest to the combatants. her epistles are not in the least brilliant, no but it does not concern the outside world except even intelligent, keen and sensible, like those need so many pages as Mr. Osbourne's to cen- public's first decade. We find in the current vey that information. Enough is as good as a "Lippincott" a number of these letters, more or feast. Here is a specimen from the lighter less trivial, but altogether feminine in characpassages from the 'Yallohally Record':

That incompetent shuffler, General Osbourne, has got exactly what he deserved. The whole command was crushed by that wide-awake fellow. Porty, and a lot of guns and arumunition lie ignominiously deserted on our own side of the giver. All this through mere chuckle-headed incompetence and the neglect of the most elementary precautions within a day's march of two magnificent armies, either of which under any same, soldierly man, is capable of marching right through to Glendarule.

How long is this disorganization to go on? How long is that bloated bondholder to go prancing round on horseback, wall-eyed and muddle-headed, while his men are starved and butchered, and the forces of this great country are at the mercy of clever rogues like Potty or respectable mediocrities like Stevenson.

It is not to be wondered at that young General Oshourne, after more of these attacks, suppressed the "Record" and hanged the editor.

How many devoted admirers of Mr. Kipling's genius can honestly say that they think his latest story in "McClure's Magazine" a thing orthy of his abilities? It is clever, of course, y-nature; but, after all, is it worth while for hipling, a man of unique talents, to wreak himoif upon such work? There is no stress of poverty driving him-why should he not "lie fallow," preparing for even finer achievements then those which have won him fame? This is what his truest friends and most sincere critics must feel.

for its poems of Christmas feeling and for the Sustrations made for them. Mr. Du Mond, especially facile in this kind of work, is particularly effective. His drawing for the long poem by Louise Morgan Sill is charmingly composed, and the pictures he has made for verses by Mrs. Stewart and Miss Cloud show also that his talent has developed greatly. We like, too, the illustrations provided by Mr. Lucius Hitchcock for Mr. John Corbin's excellent paper on "How the Other Half Laughs." The humble stage folk and audiences celebrated by this author are full of a picturesque and sympathetic interest. Mr. Carbin sketches them vividly and Mr. Hitchcock reinforces his text with notable vigor and artistic charm. We note that the frontispiece to this number is a first-rate essay in color printing. The design by Mr. Howard Pyle, with its old-fashioned sailor figures, is in itself striking and the printing of it in several bright tints has been most satisfactorily ac-

We do not think that Mr. W. M. Rossetti has done wisely in publishing the weak or foolish remnants of his famous brother's portfolio. Only one of these heretofore buried verses, now presented in "The Pall Mall Magazine," is worth reading-this:

Dear friend, if there be any bond Which friendship wins not much beyond— So old and fond, since thought began— It may be that whose subtle span Binds Shakespeare to an English man.

And even this, we may remark, is not of any great value. A specimen of the worst of these newly revealed productions is this parody in criticism on "Uncle Tom's Cabin":

Der was an old nigger, and him name was Uncle Tom.
And him tale was rather slow;
Me try to read de whole, but me only read some, Because me found it no go.
Den hang up de author Mrs. Stowe,
And kick de volume wid your toe—And dere's no more public for poor Uncle Tom, He am gone whar de trunk-lining go.

Him tale dribbles on and on widout a break, Till you hab no eyes for to see: When I reached Chapter 4 I had got a headache, So I had to let Chapter 4 be. Den hang up, etc.,

De demand one fine morning for Uncle Tom died, De tears down Mrs, Stowe's face ran like rain: For she knew berry well, now dey'd laid him on de shelf.

Dat she'd neber get a publisher again.

Den hang up, etc. How wise is the literary executor who has the | Elopement" take the lead. In fun and quaintcourage and the kindness to destroy the unpublished trash left by a distinguished writer! The public shows an interest in such things, of course, but it may as well be said that it is

intellectual purpose is served in gratifying it. The best pictures in "The Century," if we except the lovely portrait by Raeburn, engraved by Thomas Cole, are the two drawn by Mr. Maxfield Parrish for a poem of Edna Proctor | Monkton" is the chief attraction of the holiday Clark's. We sometimes have doubts as to the imaginative resources of Mr. Parrish. The range is undoubtedly "gashly," but not too much so of his ideas is not very wide. But there is no and all the worry and fright of it end in joy, as doubt about his style as a draughtsman. That befits the Christmas time. Another piece of is novel and exquisite. Perhaps he has been in- fiction in which there is no element of cheer fluenced somewhat by Boutel de Monvel, but is "Q's" story of "The Poisoned Ice." It deals not enough to destroy his originality. The with Panama and Morgan, the buccaneer, and peculiar method whereby he substitutes an in- its tragedy is of the hair-lifting description. finity of dots, melting into one another, for pure | "Pigaro Illustré" has delicately tinted and deft-

line, is enormously attractive. Some of these | ly drawn pictures set within text which is more

days he will develop in respect to his facial or less sentimental. All these Christmas num-

types, and will do some fruitful thinking. In the bers are issued in this country by the Inter-

can time he has a way with him which, in a national News Company

young artist, can only be hailed with warm approval, it is so charming and it promises so much. We wish, by the way, that Mr. Castaigne SOME FEATURES OF THE HOLIDAY had been assigned to some other task than that of assisting in the illustration of Professor Wheeler's new life of Alexander the Great. His ored cover, executed from a graceful design by archæology is no doubt beyond dispute, and he Salon is over all his work, rendering it intolerably mechanical and shallow. Mr. Loch's illustrations, though less firm in style, are much

more credible and artistic. Mr. J. A. Riis's article, "The Passing of Cat ' is a touching record of life in the slums, and one provocative of that Christmas feeling which means goodwill and brotherly helpful-The old alley was atrocious in many ways, but it was full of charity and kindness, Even the wild tittle messenger-boys, "a harum scarum lot," were found secretly contributing to the support of a wretched, penniless old widow. It was not long after that, says Mr. Rils, "that another old pensioner of the alley, suddenly drawn into their cyclonic sport in the narrow passageway, fell and broke her arm. Apparently no one in the lot was individually it deprived her of her poor means of earning the few pennies with which she eked out the charity of the alley. Worse than that, it took from her hope after death, as it were. years she had pinched and saved and denfed herself to keep up a payment of 25 cents a really waiting to die, but waiting with a cheerits long sleep, which a life of toll had pictured

A hardly contested toy war may be an This lady was given to letter-writing, and while so absorbed in the battle. It did not ing glimpses of the official society of the Reter. They were written from Philadelphia, that ain put his foot in it. Blundering into leader of society there, just then, was Mrs. with a lot of unsupported horse, he exactly what he deserved. The whole not coming, before. I should have been better pleased if she had, to tell the truth; but if she had not come at all I should not have cared; though she is of great consequence, in some people's opinion, in the city. As she has put it in my power to go to her house, I shall certainly see all that I can by asking for. I am determined to see her garden, her greenhouse, and amusing, and it is a graphic portrayal of and everything else that is worth seeing. Their house and all the outside look very pretty, and I daresay the inside corresponds with the ex-

Mrs. Stoddert at last goes to a ball at the Bingham mansion, and it is worth while to quote her account of it, since this was the highest form of entertainment in the most punctilious Republican society of that period;

quote her account of it, since this was the highest form of entertainment in the most punctilious Republican society of that period:

About 7:30 I called for Mrs. Harrison, and we made our appearance at Mrs. Bingham's. But, instead of her being in a little room, as you have been told, till all her company arrived, she was seated at the head of the drawing-room. I should call it, or, in other words, on one side of the chimney, with three ladies only. There were some young ladies in another room, where her two daughters were also, who, upon my inquiring after their health, were sent for by their mamma. I should suppose that it was near 9 o'clock before the dancing commenced. At the end of the first dance, or near it, punch and lemonade were brought in. That was the first refreshment. Some time after, I think, it was brought in again, and soon after the best fee cream, as well as the prettiest, that ever I saw was carried around in beautiful china cups and gilt spoons. The latter I had seen there before.

Except punch and lemonade, nothing more to eat till supper, which we were summoned to at II, when the most superb thing of the kind which I ever saw was presented to our view—though those who have been there before say that the supper was not as elegant as they had seen there. In the middle was an orange tree, with ripe fruit, and where a common spectator might imagine the root was, it was covered with evergreens, some natural and some artificial flowers. Nothing scarcely appeared on the table without evergreens to decorate it. The girondole, which hangs immediately over the table, was let down just to reach the top of the tree. You can't think how beautiful it looked. I imagine the root was, it was covered with evergreens and tongues, the latter the best that ever I tasied, which was the only meat I ate. The dessert (all was on the table) consisted of everything that one could conceive of except jelly, though I daresay there was jelly, too, but, to my mortification, I could not get any. I never ate better than a

ghastly and humorous. In its very cover "The Graphic" opens the ball with its reproduction of Thomas Laurence's delightful portrait of Lady Grosvenor, Mr. H. G. Wells, Mr. Grant Allen, Mr. Jacobs, "Q." and Mrs. Steel furnish the prose fiction, and among the series of comic drawings Mr. Hugh Thomson's illustrations of "Aunt Kesiah's ness and tenderness they are as good as anything this accomplished artist has done. There is much pleasant holiday fiction, and there are many attractive pictures (characteristically largely the interest of curlosity, and no proper British) in "Holly Leaves," the Christmas number of "The Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News." But its very best feature is its cover. remarkably artistic in design, and of a splendid glowing scarlet that is a delight to the eye. Max Pemberton's story of "The Spectre of number of "The Hlustrated London News." It

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